



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Legacy Management

Middlesex Sampling Plant, New Jersey, Site

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about the Middlesex, New Jersey, Site.

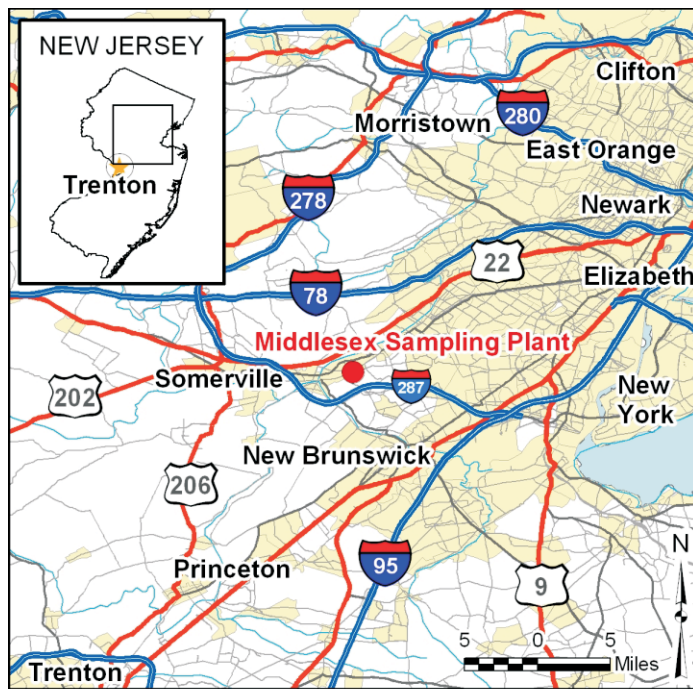
*This site is currently managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
but will eventually transfer to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.*

Site Description and History

The Middlesex Sampling Plant, New Jersey, Site is located at 239 Mountain Avenue in Middlesex, New Jersey, approximately 26 miles southwest of Newark and 35 miles northeast of Trenton, New Jersey. The site occupies 9.6 acres.

The facility was initially used to stockpile high-grade uranium ore (known as pitchblende) from the Belgian Congo. From 1943 to 1955, the Middlesex Sampling Plant, under the auspices of the Manhattan Engineer District and its successor agency, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), was used to crush, dry, screen, weigh, assay, store, package, and ship uranium ore, along with thorium and beryllium ores, for the development of the atomic bomb. The ores were subsequently shipped to other sites for processing. It was later discovered that some radioactive waste materials had been disposed of one-half mile away at the Middlesex North Site (or Middlesex Municipal Landfill).

AEC used the sampling plant primarily for storage and for some sampling of thorium residues from 1955 to 1967. In 1967, the site was decontaminated, certified, and released for unrestricted use. While in operation and during decontamination, traces of radioactive materials had been carried off site by wind and rain to the yards of area homes. The plant was transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps in 1969, and the facility was used as a reserve training center until 1979, when the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) became its custodian. DOE cleaned up the residential properties in the 1980s as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Excavated soil was stored at the site in a specially constructed pile, known as the Vicinity Properties (VP) pile. Contaminated materials disposed of at the Middlesex North Site were also excavated in the 1980s and stored at the site in a separate pile. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) disposed of 33,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the Middlesex North Site pile in 1998 and 35,000 cubic yards from the VP pile in 1999.



Location of the Middlesex Sampling Plant, New Jersey, Site

Regulatory Setting

AEC, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiometric surveys for more than 600 sites connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the USACE in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

Soils at the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site were remediated to criteria in a Record of Decision (ROD), which was signed in September 2005. The site is

being addressed under the processes defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and was added to the National Priorities List in February 1999.

USACE's responsibilities for the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site will be defined in a Federal Facilities Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Current Site Conditions

Remedial action will continue in 2007 in accordance with the ROD. USACE is coordinating a ground water feasibility study and a proposed remedial action plan with EPA Region 2 and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. USACE monitors the air, ground water, surface water, and sediments at the site to verify that contamination continues to be contained on site.

Site closure is pending, and long-term surveillance and maintenance requirements will be determined once final site conditions are known. Responsibility for the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site will transfer from USACE to the DOE Office of Legacy Management.

Additional Information

Documents related to the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site and links to additional information about the site are accessible at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/land/sites/nj/middlesexsp/middlesexsp.htm> and <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/prjlinks/fusrap/index.htm>.

For more information about DOE Legacy Management activities at the Middlesex Sampling Plant Site, contact

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